

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9347

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 12100

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, MO

SUBJECT: QUAI VIEWS ON GISCARD VISIT TO MOROCCO

REF: (A) RABAT 2198 (B) RABAT 2188 (BOTH NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE MUCH THE SAME IMPRESSION AS RABAT THAT BOTH THE FRENCH AND MOROCCANS CONSIDER GISCARD'S VISIT TO HAVE BEEN A GREAT SUCCESS. QUAI POLITICAL DIRECTOR DE LABOULAYE, WHO TRAVELED WITH THE PRESIDENT, TOLD DCM LAST WEEK THAT THE VISIT WAS "EXTRAORDINARY", FULL OF WARMTH AND EMOTION AS EVIDENCED, FOR EXAMPLE, BY TRIBESMEN DESCENDING FROM THE MOUNTAINS AND EMBRACING MEMBERS OF GISCARD'S PARTY.

2. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR NORTH AFRICA DE WARREN PUT THE VISIT IN PERHAPS A MORE BALANCED LIGHT, AS SEEN FROM PARIS, BY CONTRASTING IT WITH GISCARD'S RECENT FORAY INTO ALGERIA. THE TREMENDOUS WELCOME THE FRENCH PRESIDENT RECEIVED IN RABAT WAS EXPECTED, WARREN SAID, CONFIDENTIAL

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WHILE THE WARMTH OF THE GREETINGS IN ALGIERS HAD BEEN

A PLEASANT SURPRISE. WARREN INTIMATED, WITHOUT SO STATING, THAT FOR THE FRENCH, IT WAS THE ALGERIAN REACTION THAT COUNTED, MOROCCAN REACTION BEING BOTH LESS SIGNIFICANT AND TAKEN FOR GRANTED. NONETHELESS, WARREN, TOO, COMMENTED ON THE EXTRAORDINARY RECEPTION, SYMBOLIC OF THE PRACTICAL DISAPPEARANCE OF BILATERAL CONTENTIEUX AND OF UNPLEASANT MEMORIES LIKE THE BEN BARKA AFFAIR.

3. WARREN'S DESCRIPTION OF POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE KING AND PRESIDENT TALLIED WITH REFTEL A. ON SPANISH SAHARA, GISCARD TOLD HASSAN FRANCE WOULD FAVOR DIRECT DISCUSSIONS AMONG THE INTERESTED PARTIES AND WOULD ACCEPT TALKS IN PARIS BUT THAT IT WOULD TAKE NO INITIATIVE TO THAT END, A STANCE THAT REPORTEDLY PLEASED HASSAN. THE FRENCH HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE MOROCCANS AND MAURITANIANS HAVE MORE OR LESS COME TO AGREEMENT OVER THE SAHARA, WARREN CONTINUED, AND BELIEVE THAT ALGERIA'S RECENT DOWN-PLAYING OF SAHARAN INDEPENDENCE PROBABLY REFLECTS CONCERN OVER A MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN UNDERSTANDING.

4. ON CSCE, WARREN SAID THE MOROCCANS WERE LESS EXCITED THAN THE ALGERIANS ABOUT PARTICIPATION IN THE FINAL PHASE. LABOULAYE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT THE MOROCCANS WISHED THE COMMUNIQUE TO CONTAIN A FRENCH WELCOME TO MOROCCAN "PARTICIPATION" IN CSCE. THE FRENCH AGREED ONLY TO WELCOME A MOROCCAN "CONTRIBUTION" TO CSCE.

5. CONCERNING ECONOMIC AND MILITARY DISCUSSIONS, WARREN SAID THAT PROGRESS WAS MADE ON AN INVESTMENT GUARANTEE AGREEMENT WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE SIGNED SHORTLY. MILITARY AID DISCUSSIONS WERE LESS SATISFACTORY, HE INDICATED. THE FRENCH ARE WILLING TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ABOUT 20 MILLION FRANCS PER YEAR OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT CREDITS ON THE UNDERSTANDING MOROCCO WILL PURCHASE ABOUT 80 MILLION FRANCS PER ANNUM AS UNDER THE PRESENT FIVE-YEAR AGREEMENT. THE MOROCCANS NOW WISH MORE FRENCH ARMS AND ARE PRESSING THE FRENCH TO

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CONTINUE AT A HIGHER LEVEL OF ARMS PURCHASES THE CURRENT ONE TO FOUR CREDIT/PURCHASE RATIO BUT FRANCE IS RESISTING, BECAUSE OF A SHORTAGE OF CREDIT FUNDS.
RUSH

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